

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

CLAIMS STATUS

Applicants have cancelled claims 13-19 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve a right to file one or more continuation applications directed to the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

Applicants have introduced new claims 23-28. Support for the new claims can be found through the specification as filed and, in particular, for claims 23-24 on pages 26-27 and in Figure 2; for claims 25-26 on pages 28-30 and in Figures 3 A-B; and for claims 27-28 on pages 30-33 and in Figures 4-6. No new matter has been added.

After the amendment, pending claims include new claims 23-28 and withdrawn claims 11-12 and 21-22.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

1) Claims 13-19 stand rejected as obvious over Matsumura, Carbon, volume 23, no. 2, pp. 263-271. Applicants believe that the present amendment obviates the rejection.

2) Claims 13-19 stand rejected as obvious over Seki, US patent No. 3,961,020, in view of Liang *et. al.*, US patent 5,462,908. Applicants believe that the present amendment obviates the rejection.

3) Claims 13-19 stand rejected as obvious over Nishino *et. al.*, US patent 4,256,728, taken with Liang *et. al.*, US patent 5,462,908. Applicants believe that the present amendment obviates the rejection.

4) Claims 16 and 18 stand rejected as obvious over the references cited in rejections 1-3 further in view of Endo (5,446,005). Applicants believe that the present amendment obviates the rejection.

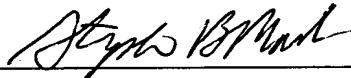
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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